

Abstract**Seals and a Method Making Seals**

5 A seal and method of making seals utilises folds in
order to form creases in a length of material such that the
creases reinforce individual seal elements or surfaces
whilst perforations or slots in a seal edge allow air
leakage from one side of the seal element or surface to the
10 other. Thus, air pressurisation can take place between
spaced seal elements or surfaces and this allows air
flotation or riding of a rotating component relative to a
static housing component. The perforations are typically
graduated from the seal edge in order to provide the best
15 pressurisation and air-riding effect for proximity or gap
control between the sealing edge and the rotating component
surface. The slots effectively provide flexibility to the
sealing edge such that the seal component emulates a brush
seal.